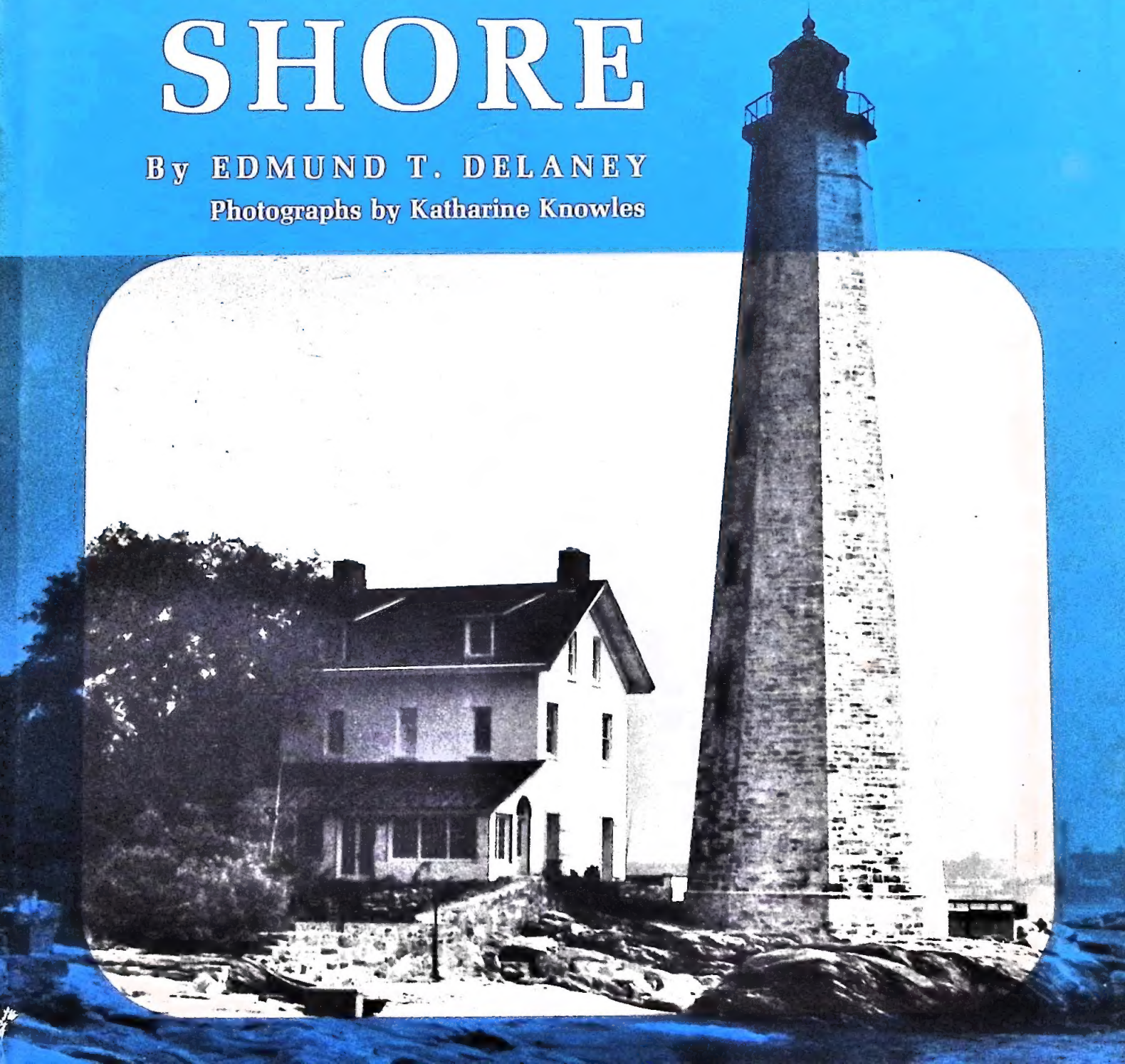
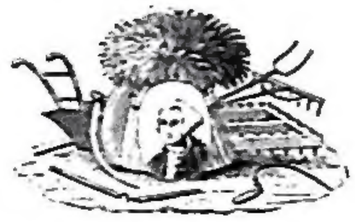
THE Connecticut SHORE

By EDMUND T. DELANEY

Photographs by Katharine Knowles





BARRE

Southington
Hanging Hill
Mad R.
Tinnile R.
Waterbury
Woodbury
Southbury R.
Sulphur Mt.
Sherman R.
Southbury
New Fairfield
Rocky R.
Bull P.
Brookfield
Still R.
Danbury
Newtown
Oxford Parish
Naugatuc R.
Hamden
West Rock
Wallingford
Durham
Woodbridge
Northhaven
Dickenson Cave
Derby
NEWHAVEN
West R.
Eastheaven
Brentford
Ridgfield
Reading
Saugatuck R.
Aspetuck R.
Huntington
Stratford
Milford
Weatherfield
Norwalk
Pequonnock R.
Stratford
Oyster River
NEWHAVEN H.
Five Mile P.
Milford H.
Charles I
Oyster ground
Stratford P.
Long Beach
Sluip Harbour
Pequanock P.
Fairfield Bay
Sugatuck H.
Norwalk H.
Norwalk I.
Long I
Long neck
Smiths Ledge
Sheffield I.
Stamford
Rodens It.
Greenwich
Byram R.
Bedford
Five Mile R.
Mill R.
Mianus R.
Sasco R.
Mill R.
Fairfield
Norwalk
Greens Farms
Saugatuck R.
Sasco R.
Mill R.
Norwalk R.
Saugatuck R.
Peaquonnock R.
Sasco R.
Mill R.
Rodens It.
Sheffield I.
Elizabeth P.
Captains I.
Goose Island
Horsneck R.
Buck H.
Great Cove
Byram R.
Greenwich
Mianus R.
Mill R.
Five Mile R.
Bedford
Norwalk R.
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Sasco R.
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Fairfield
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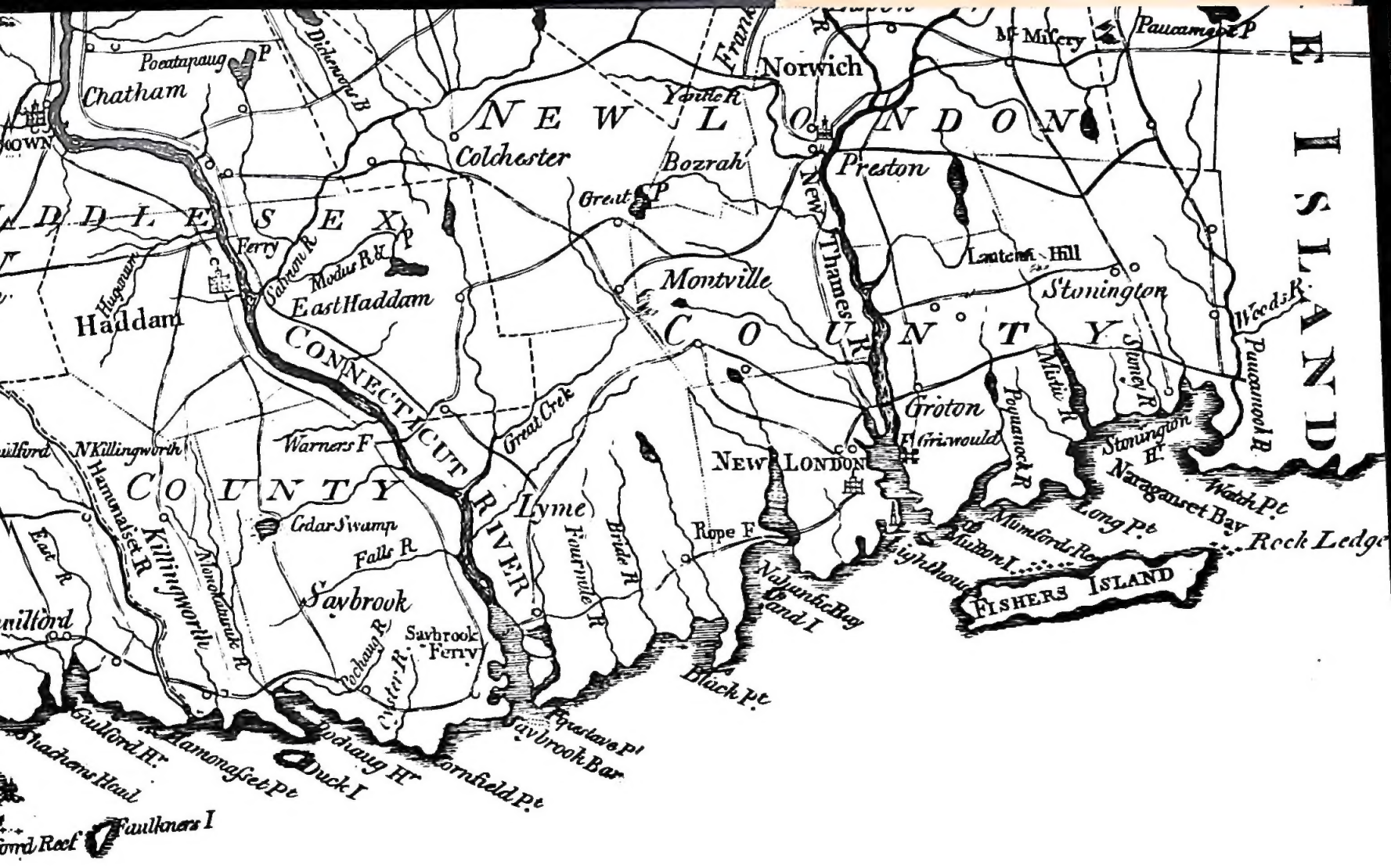
Sheffield I.
Stamford



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Photographs by KATHARINE KNOWLES

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Left: Spring garden, Essex. Above: Thimble Islands.

Introduction

PLEADING BEFORE the Supreme Court in the famous Dartmouth College case of 1819, Daniel Webster is said to have concluded his impassioned argument with the oft-repeated phrase "It is a small College, Sir, but there are those who love her." Although Connecticut is the third smallest state in the Union, there are, indeed, many who love her dearly. Dwellers already ensconced can rarely be induced to leave, and there are untold outsiders, old and young, scattered in all parts of the country, who yearn for an old Connecticut house with a center fireplace, which may smoke, with wide wooden floors, which will sag, with small window panes, which will be cracked, and with a white clapboard, green-shuttered, exterior.

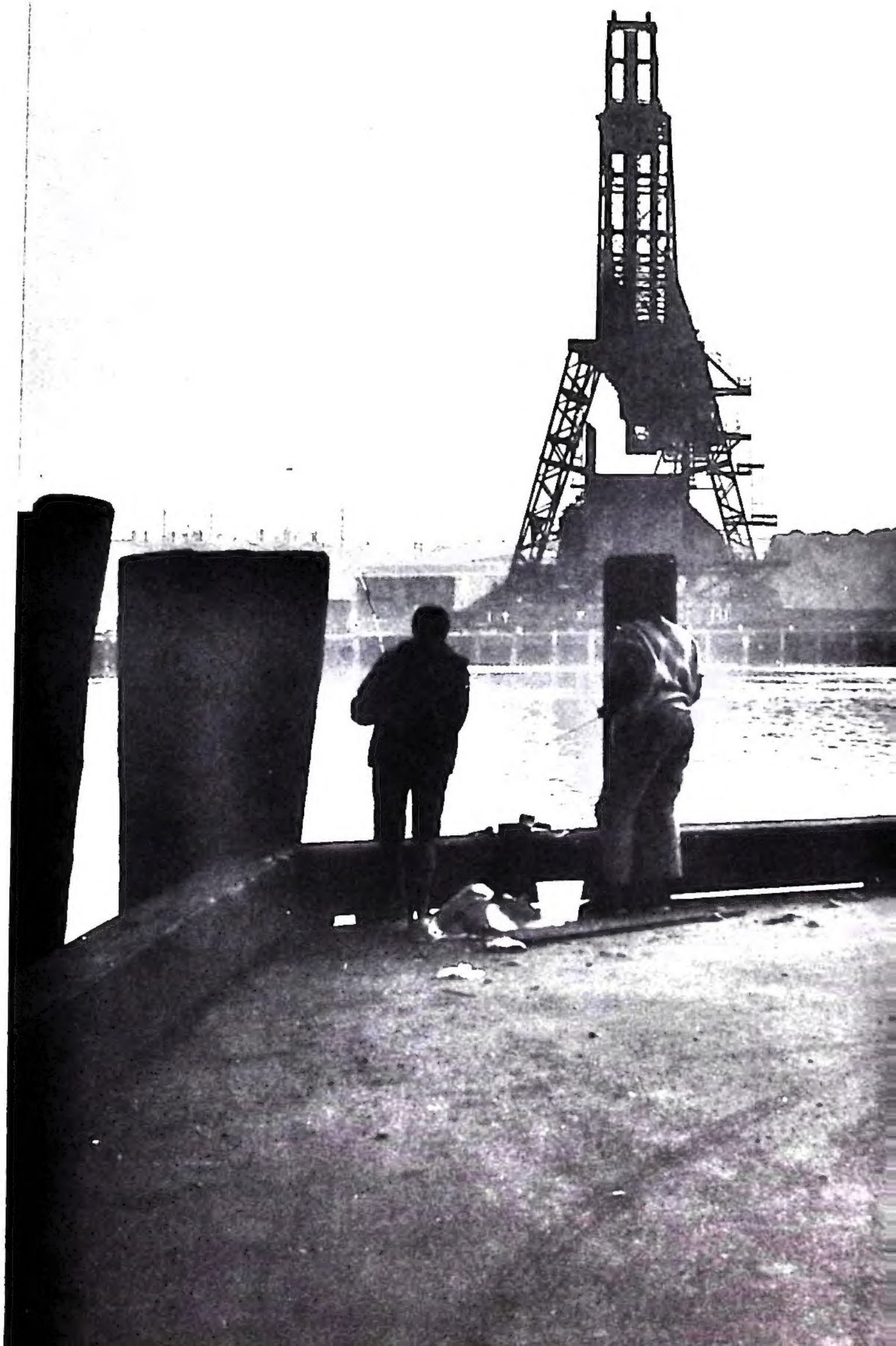
Of all of the New England states, Connecticut, perhaps, offers the most variety. One can find plains and rolling hills; lakes, streams, rivers and marsh lands; forests, woods and open country; small villages, old towns and large cities. On Long Island Sound, Connecticut has a frontage of some 250 miles of exciting sea shore, extending westward from Stonington, on the Rhode Island border, to Greenwich

and the bedroom suburbs of the Manhattan business commuters who financially and socially have more or less arrived and made their marks.

Except for the hills and lakes, most of the physical attributes of Connecticut can be found along the shore line. Here also can be seen many of the old houses and churches so characteristic of Colonial New England, along with the remains of the glamorous whaling ports of the 19th century. Rural villages are still to be found alongside newer summer resorts with modest cottages as well as substantial estates. The smaller factories and industrial enterprises which made great contributions to the economy of the 18th and 19th centuries in tools, hardware, firearms and precision machinery have been supplanted by much larger modern installations.

Also along the shore line is ample evidence of the quest for learning so vital in New England from its earliest days; in few other areas of comparable size can one find flourishing schools, colleges, universities, research centers, theatres or museums which have so consistently attracted an intellectual elite from both home and abroad.

Running down through the middle of New England is the Connecticut River, without doubt one of the most beautiful in America. Rising in the White Mountains of New Hamsphire,



Bridgeport Harbor

The mouth of the Connecticut River looking from Old Saybrook to Old Lyme.

Old Town Mill, established by John Winthrop, Jr. in New London in 1650 and rebuilt in 1724.

it divides both Massachusetts and Connecticut almost in half and then flows out into Long Island Sound between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme. For almost all of the first three hundred years of Connecticut history the Connecticut River was a vital avenue of communication to the interior, and much of the history and life of the state has been centered along its banks and along the shores of the Sound.

It was in 1614 that the river was first penetrated by the white man. Flying the flag of the States — General of the Netherlands, Adrien Block, fresh from his visit to Block Island, sailed up the river almost to Hartford. The Dutch made gestures about claiming lands along the river and in 1633 they did in fact establish a trading post south of Hartford. About two years later, however, English settlers came down the river from Massachusetts under the leadership of Thomas Hooker and established themselves along the river at Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield.

Meanwhile, a group of English lords and gentlemen of strong Puritan persuasion were considering a move away from the England of the Stuarts and sent settlers under John Winthrop, Jr. to establish a colony at the mouth of the river. Under Winthrop's direction, Lion Gardner reached Saybrook Point in 1635, and there he erected a fort as a protection against the Dutch and the Indians.

The settlement of Saybrook was soon followed in 1638 by the establishment

of another separate colony in the New Haven area led, as was the Hooker group, by dissident Puritan divines. The New Haven settlers founded Guilford and Branford in 1639 and Milford and Stamford in 1640. Stratford and Fairfield were established in 1639 by some soldiers from the Hartford area who had discovered the sites in the course of some Indian fighting. Greenwich and Norwalk came into being in a similar way one year later. John Winthrop of the Saybrook group founded New London, also in 1640, and Stonington was founded from New London some eighteen years later.

Thus it was that in the course of some twenty years the entire Connecticut shore line was covered with small settlements. Initially they were more or less independent, but in 1644 Saybrook Colony joined with Hartford and became part of the Connecticut Colony. Other towns gradually came in, and under pressures of various sorts the New Haven Colony, with its dependent towns, completed the union in 1665.

In Colonial times Connecticut grew very gradually. It was essentially made up of communities of small farmers, tradesmen, artisans and seafarers.

The Old Stone Custom House in Stonington.

The Robert Palmer house, 1884, stands on a hill in Noank overlooking the harbor.

The people were almost entirely of English descent — homogeneous in culture, simple, frugal, industrious, and rigidly attached to the Congregational Church, which was supported by the state as the official established religion as late as 1818. There was comparatively little emigration from Europe or from other colonies. Without either great wealth or extreme poverty Connecticut was to become known as "the land of steady habits."

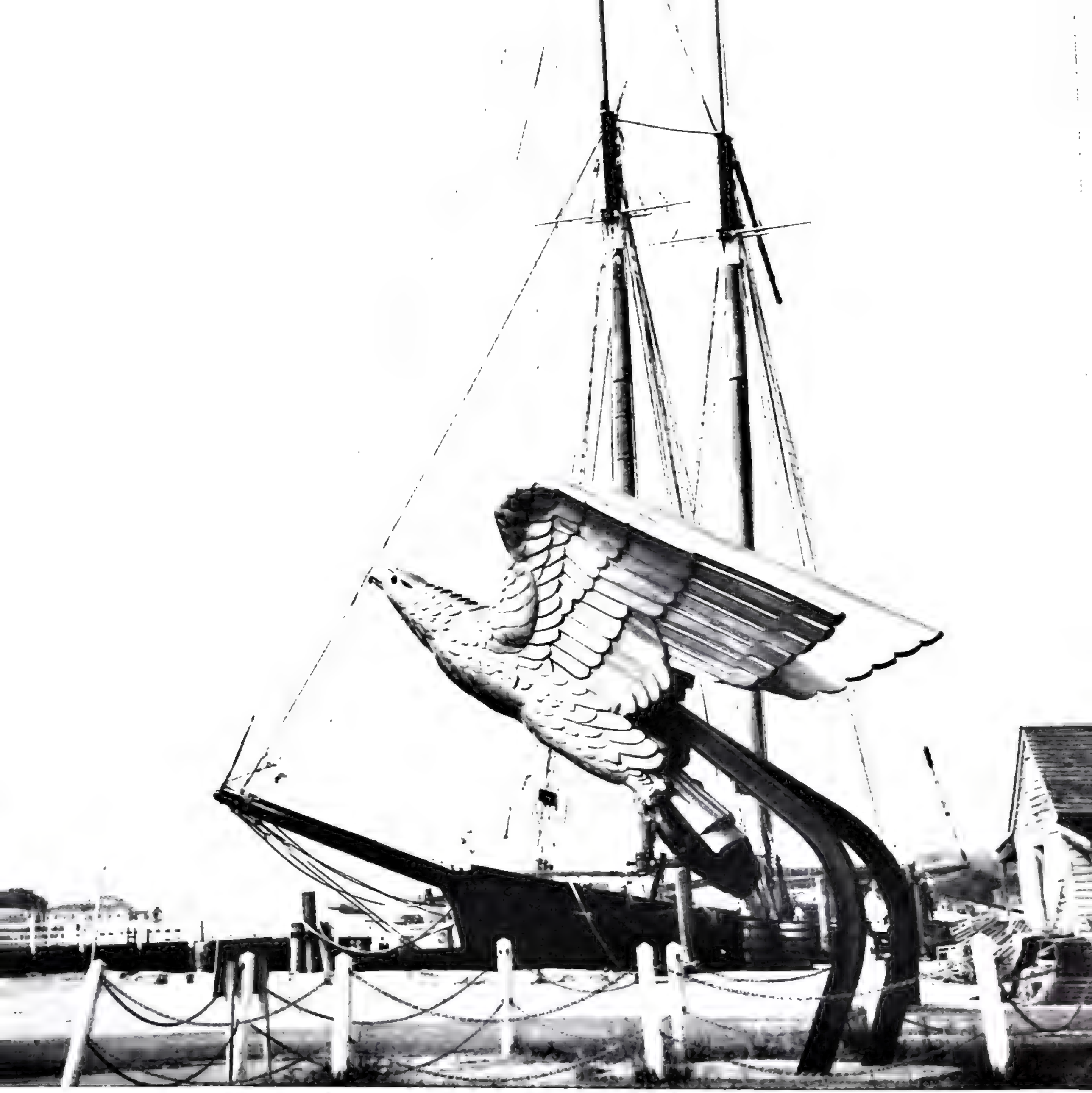
Probably the most democratic of all colonies at the time of the Revolution, Connecticut has been continuously self-governed. Most of the public authority was concentrated at the town level and exercised through the town meeting at which all citizens could be heard and could vote. The first written constitution was drawn up as early as 1639 under the name of the Fundamental Orders. John Winthrop, Jr. procured a Royal Charter from Charles II in 1662 which soon applied to the entire state, and, in spite of the attempt of James II to revoke it in 1687, this Charter continued as the fundamental law of the state until 1818. When the Revolution came in 1775 Connecticut had the lowest proportion of loyalists in any of the colonies, and

Anchor on the rocks at Noank.

Jonathan Trumbull, who had been popularly elected, was the only colonial governor to support Independence and to be retained in office throughout the War.

The Connecticuter of today can hardly be called a Connecticut Yankee for the Yankees are now but a minority among the many and diverse ethnic groups which have come into Connecticut in the past fifty years. Indeed, of all of the states Connecticut has the highest percentage of foreign-born. The contributions of the Yankee, however, were so strong that the newcomers have absorbed many of the old Yankee virtues.

The history and traditions of Connecticut are reflected, not only in the old buildings and historical homes, but also in the life and character of contemporary Connecticut and its people. To many the most exciting part of the state is the shore line, and the perceptive eye of Katharine Knowles has given us a memorable record of the towns and villages, of the beaches and waterways, and of the people who live there two hundred and thirty-three years after the original colony was established.



The eagle figurehead at the entrance to the Mystic Seaport was the figurehead on the German Navy's square rigged bark, Horst Wessel, *which as a war prize was taken over by the United States and is now the U.S. Coast Guard training ship* Eagle *at the Academy in New London.*

Left: Main Street, Stonington; and above, its waterfront.

Across from Rhode Island

By the end of the 18th century, Stonington with over 5,000 inhabitants was an important port and whaling town. The *Betsy* of the Stonington fleet was the first ship to sail around the globe flying the Stars and Stripes. Sealing and whaling ships from Stonington regularly ventured into Antarctic waters.

Today Stonington is a quiet and dignified town with a special appeal for artists and writers. Yet even now the Stonington fishing fleet is one of the most important ones in New England, and its ships are manned in large part by descendants of sailors from the Azores. Tradition has played an important part in Stonington life, but never in their wildest dreams would its Congregationalist founders have believed that in years to come the old Portuguese custom of the annual blessing of the fleet would become a permanent part of the Stonington scene.

"Mr. Madison's War," as the War of 1812 was called in New England, was highly unpopular and the entire Connecticut Congressional delegation voted against it. New England coastal trade suffered greatly from a British blockade in 1813 and 1814. Attempts to breach the blockade brought re-

The Old Stonington Lighthouse built in 1823 was the first one built by the Federal government and is now a museum of Stonington relics and whaling equipment.

Stonington is the site of the oldest bank in Connecticut. Inside is displayed a flag with 16 stars and 16 stripes which was carried in the battle of Stonington.

taliation, and one such attack was launched against Stonington in 1814. Before the attack, the British Commander gave gentlemanly warning: "Not wishing to destroy the unoffending inhabitants residing in the Town of Stonington one hour is given them from receipt of this to move out of town." The citizenry declined the offer and the British unsuccessfully bombarded the town for three days, and in the words of Philip Freneau, the poet of America's early years of independence:

"It cost the King ten thousand pounds
To have a dash at Stonington."

Four miles east of Stonington is the old seafaring town of Mystic. In the 19th century, Mystic ship yards were the cradles of vessels of every description from fishing smacks to the great clippers which rounded the Horn to California and China.

The end of the whaling at the close of the 19th century was followed by the gradual disappearance of the sailing ships which in turn marked the demise of the Mystic yards. Few vestiges of the seafaring days remained in Mystic in 1929 when a group of Mystic citizens banded together to preserve what little was left of

old marine records, old ships and all that was part of the life of a once busy seaport. Out of this effort came the Mystic Seaport Museum, one of the outstanding marine museums of the world. Not only have old ships been acquired and preserved, but a New England maritime town typical of the early 19th century has been recreated.

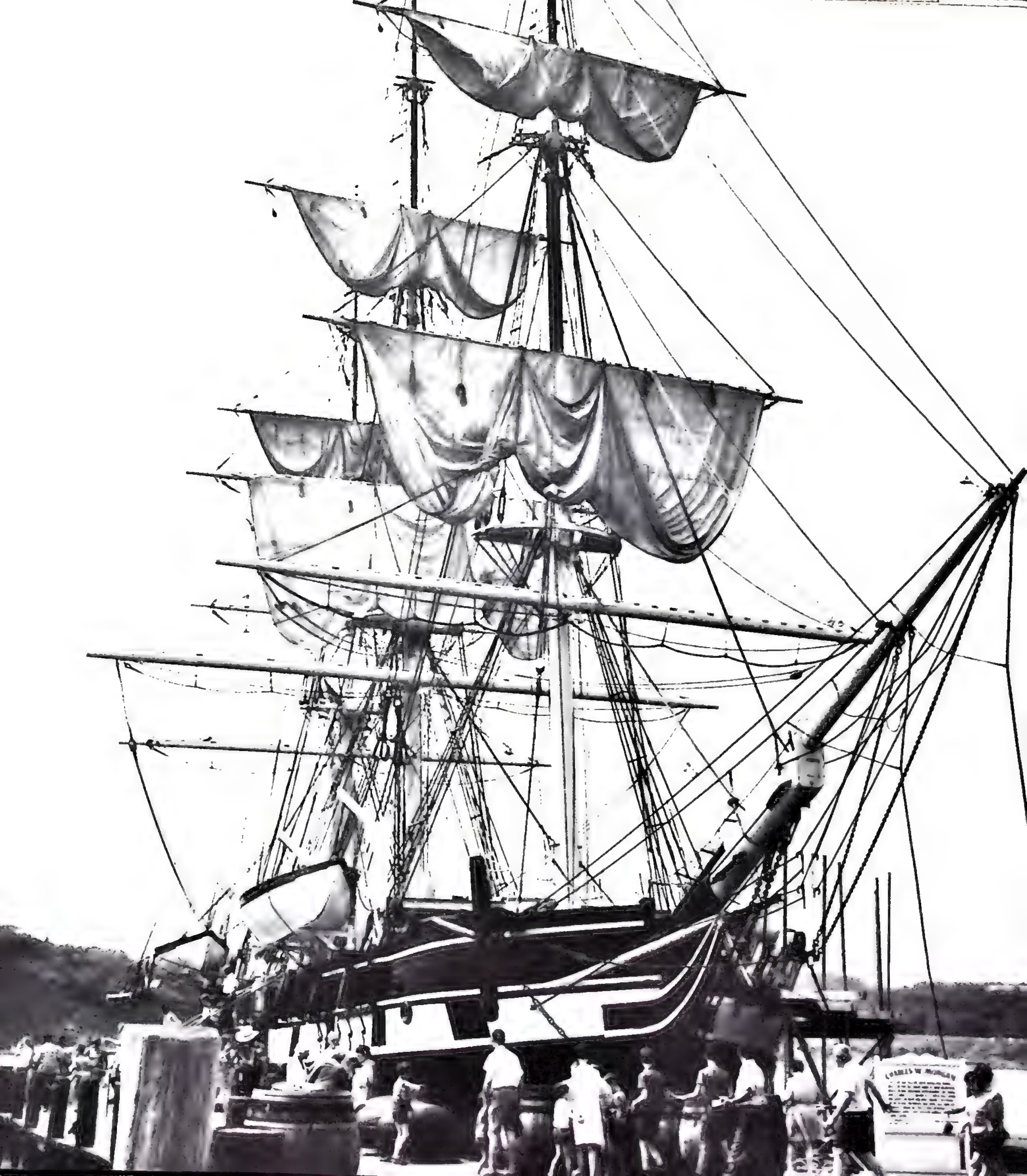
The wharfs are backed by cobbled streets along which old buildings acquired in many parts of Connecticut have been spotted; a general store, a ship smith's shop, a counting house, a bank, a sail loft, rope walk and a tavern. Off the waterfront street are a church and red schoolhouse. Further back are houses of sea captains, a clockshop, a planetarium and a museum building which has an important library on maritime subjects and a fine collection of fascinating ships' figureheads.

Left: The Mystic Seaport Museum, the Edwards House faces the cobbled waterfront. Originally built in the center of Mystic proper, it is preserved as an example of a typical modest New England seaport home.

Above: Woodcarver's shop at Mystic.

Below: The New York Yacht Club Station, originally built in Hoboken in 1845 and moved to Mystic by barge in 1949.

Reefing the sails of the Charles W. Morgan, *the last of the great wooden sailing ships. She came to Mystic in 1941 and now rests on a concrete base. Built one hundred years earlier in New Bedford, in eighty years of service she was on thirty-seven long expeditions and earned over $2,000,000.*

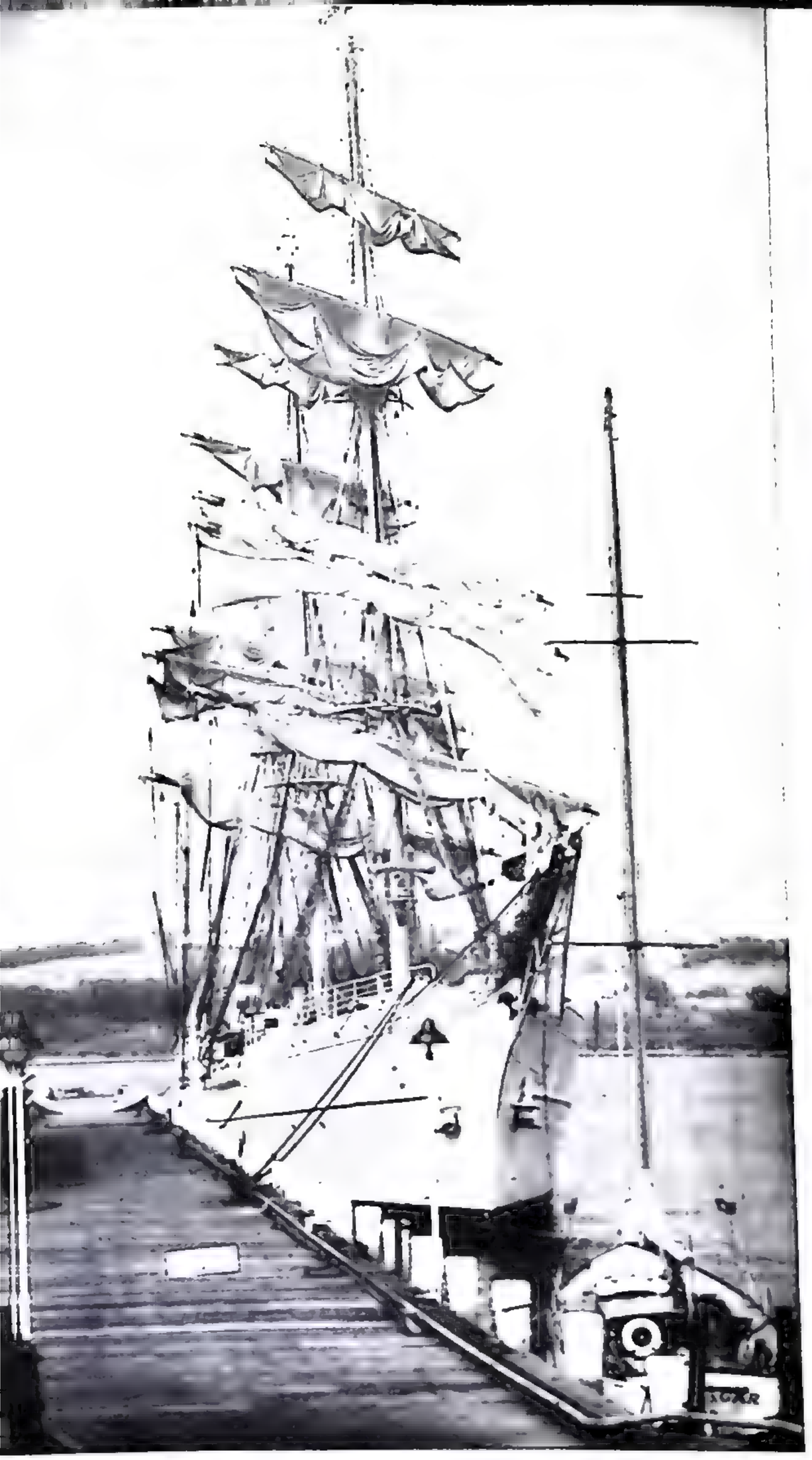


The Joseph Conrad, launched in Copenhagen in 1882, is one of the last square riggers ever built. Formerly a training ship for Danish merchant Marine, she is now used as a training ship in Mystic.

The Mouth of the Thames

ALTHOUGH THE Thames River does not compare with the Connecticut in its length, it attains considerable depth at Norwich about 15 miles from the sea and its mouth at New London and Groton forms the largest and deepest harbor on the Connecticut shore. New London early became Connecticut's leading port. In the 18th century its prosperity was based largely on the coastal and West Indian trade, but its greatest fame came in the heyday of whaling in the middle of the 19th century. New London ranked third among American whaling ports after New Bedford and Nantucket. The most profitable voyage on record was that of the *Pioneer* in 1864, which after a trip of eighteen months returned to New London with 1,391 barrels of oil and 22,650 pounds of whale bone all worth over $150,000. During the Civil War many New London whalers fell victims to Confederate raiders, and the end of whaling followed soon after when the oil drilled in Pennsylvania replaced whale oil as a lighting fuel.

Thereafter New London declined in importance as a port, but the seafaring traditions have nevertheless been continued by the establishment of



Left: The Coit Houses built around 1830, known as "Whale Oil Row," New London.
Above: Used by the Coast Guard cadets for training cruises, the Eagle *was originally a German training ship, the* Horst Wessel, *named after an early notorious Nazi hero.*
Right: U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London.

Left: Griswold Inn, Groton.

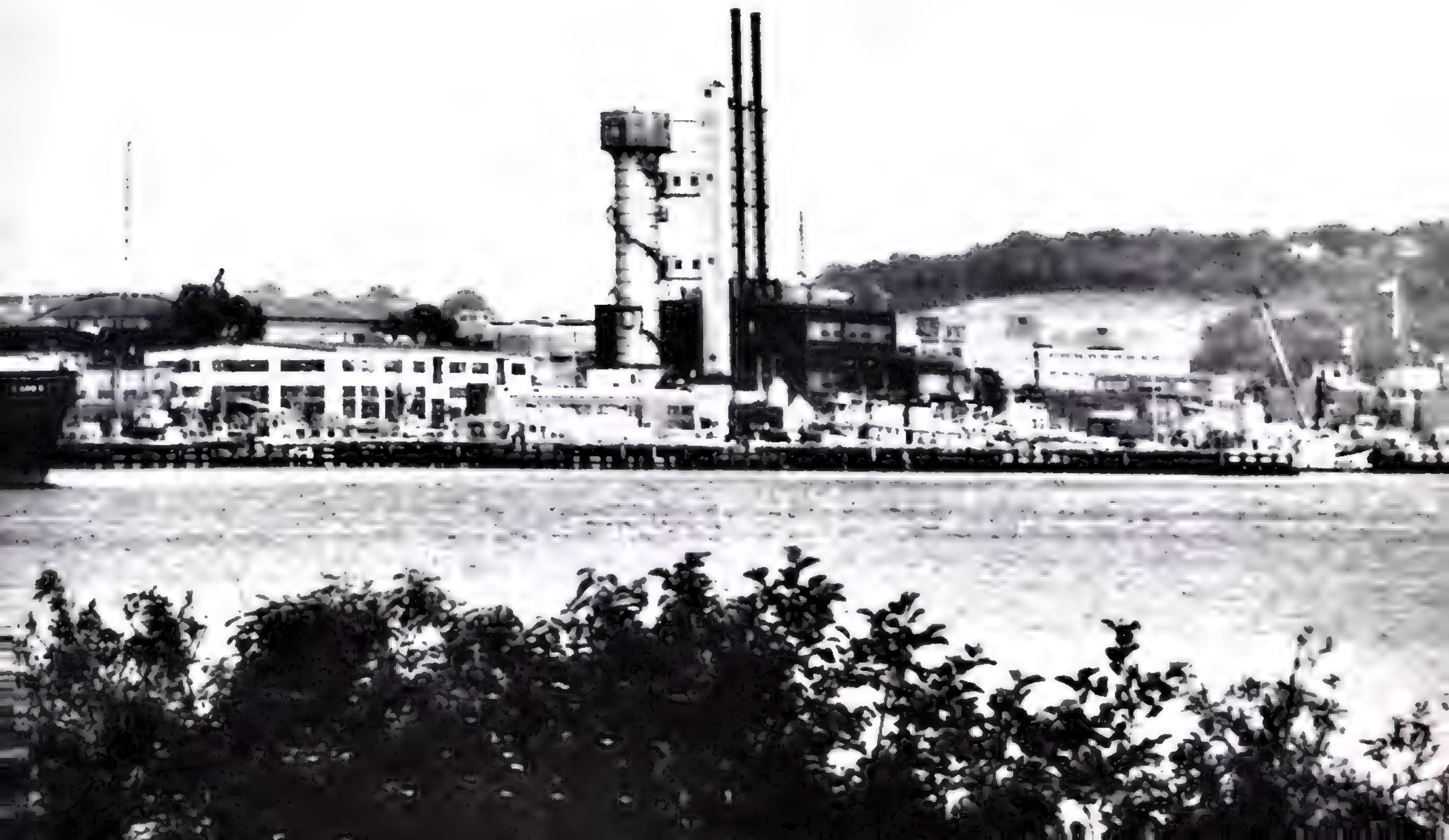
Below: The United States Submarine Base at Groton is the headquarters of the North Atlantic Submarine Fleet. The subs can be frequently seen in exercises off New London.

the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1910 and the Submarine Base in 1915.

New London is the most important industrial center east of the Connecticut River. The Groton side is the site of the Electric Boat Division of the General Dynamics Corporation where was built the first nuclear submarine.

The town itself no longer retains any distinctive characteristics which one would associate with an old seaport and whaling town, although there are still houses of historical note.

New London was founded in 1646 by the same John Winthrop, Jr. who had, a few years earlier, directed the establishment of Saybrook. Winthrop subsequently received a grant of Fisher's Island from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although only a few miles off the Connecticut shore, Fisher's Island curiously is now a part of the New York town of Southhold on Long Island. Titles and boundaries were far from clear in the early days and there was considerable overlapping



Left: The Shaw Mansion (1756) presently the seat of the New London Historical Society, was built by Captain Nathaniel Shaw, a distinguished sea captain and merchant. The Shaw mansion included among its guests Washington, Governor Jonathan Trumbull and Nathan Hale.

Below: The New London County Court House built in 1784 is an excellent example of Georgian architecture.

Fort Griswold was the site of one of the most treacherous massacres in the Revolutionary War. Outnumbered by hopeless odds, in the attack on New London by Benedict Arnold in 1781, the American commander, Colonel William Ledyard, surrendered his sword to a British officer who immediately thrust it into Ledyard's heart. Then followed the mass slaughter of 20 or 30 other soldiers.

of royal grants. Connecticut had boundary disputes with New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island the last of which was not settled until the late nineteenth century. Both Massachusetts and Connecticut claimed jurisdiction over several Long Island towns, such as East Hampton, Southhampton and Southold. It was the settlement of these conflicting claims in 1668 that made Fisher's Island a part of New York State. The Island itself, a somewhat exclusive albeit unpretentious summer colony, remained in the Winthrop family for over 200 years, and its oldest house built by Winthrop in 1646 is still in use as a summer residence.

Connecticut was not a major battlefield in the Revolutionary War, but from Connecticut came considerable support for the American cause in the form of soldiers, munitions, foodstuffs and money. Connecticut also contributed thirteen ships, most of which sailed out of New London and which accounted for forty-one British prizes. More important, however, than

Situated on high ground overlooking the Thames River, Connecticut College was founded in 1911 as a private institution for women students. In the course of time some barriers have fallen, for in addition to its 1,300 young lady collegians, the college now admits male graduate students to its courses of higher study.

Bottom left: Adjoining Connecticut College is the well-known Arboretum devoted to the conservation of native plant life.

Right: Building of Connecticut College.

O'Neill Theater Barn. Eugene O'Neill spent summers in New London and in 1912 O'Neill was a reporter on the New London Telegraph.

the "Connecticut Navy," as it was called, were the privateers, again most of them from New London, which were encouraged to prey upon the British merchant marine by special legislation under which the state, the owners and the crew all shared in the proceeds of the prizes. In the words of George Trevelyan, the British historian, the Americans "fastened eagerly upon an occupation which had an appearance of reconciling the claims of patriotic duty with the attractions of an adventurous life, and the prospect of enormous gains." The British reply was a blockade of New London and the Connecticut River. When this proved unsuccessful, Sir Henry Clinton in 1781 sent some thirty ships under the command of Benedict Arnold, by then a turncoat, to raid New London. After inflicting heavy casualties on the British, Fort Griswold on the Groton side surrendered. The British moved into New London and after destroying shipping, warehouses and military stores set fire to the heart of the town. Arnold must have had some devilish instincts that led him to accept this particular assignment, since he himself had been born in Norwich, only a few miles to the north.

The Harkness estate was left to the State of Connecticut by Mrs. Harkness so that her work with handicapped individuals might be continued. Her husband, Edward (1874-1940), dispensed over 200 million dollars in a broad range of endeavors making Yale, his alma mater, one of the financial objects of his bounty.
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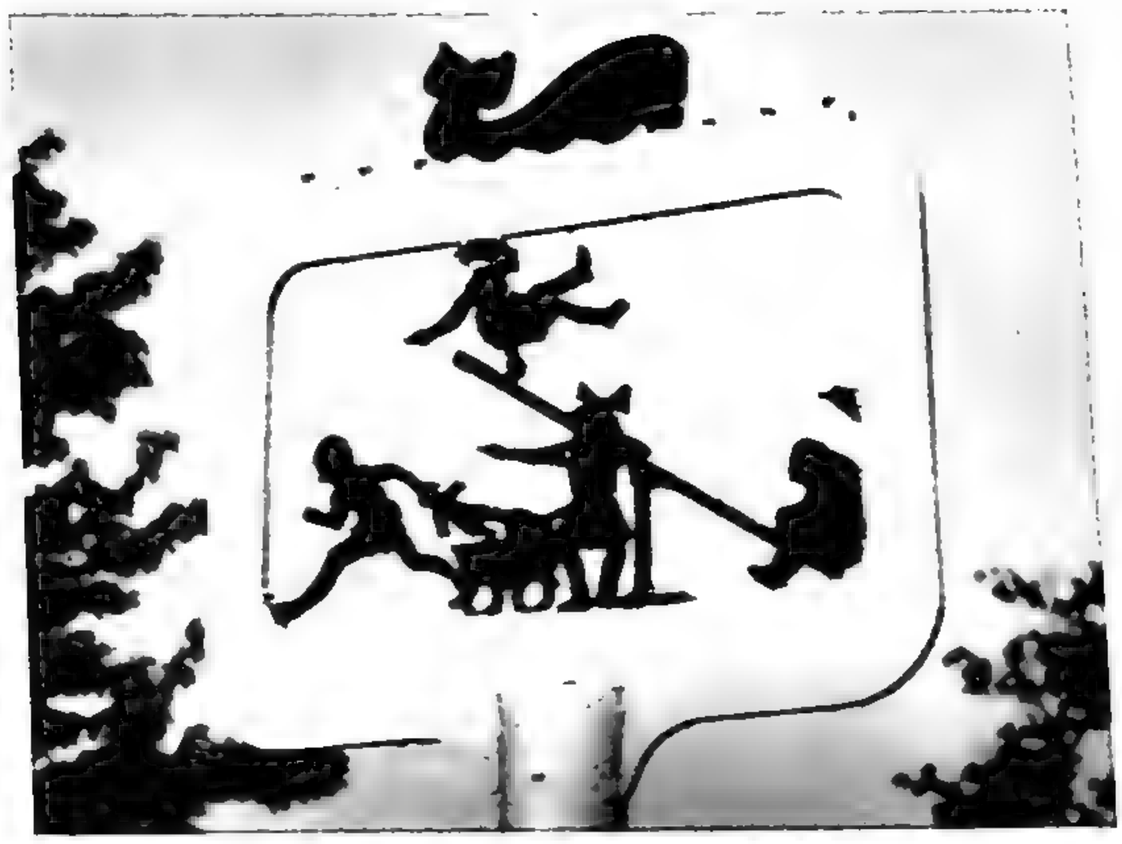
Left: The first lighthouse on the Connecticut shore was built in 1760. This one dates from 1801.

Right: Sign at Ocean Beach Park.

Below: The semi-official description of Ocean Beach Park as "The Most Beautiful and Modern Beach Resort on the Atlantic Coast" may be challenged but to Connecticutters it is fully appropriate to the fine public beach rebuilt after the complete destruction of its predecessor in the hurricane of 1938.

Following pages: The Harvard-Yale boat race. The first race was held on the Thames in 1878.



Above: The Thomas Lee House (about 1660) in Old Lyme is reputed to be the oldest structure in the state.

Below: Lee House interior.

Right: Old Lyme Congregational Church built in 1816-17 after a Christopher Wren Church in London. It burned in 1907 and was rebuilt in 1910.

Around Saybrook

As the Connecticut flows into the Sound, it is flanked on the east by Old Lyme and on the west by Old Saybrook. Just why the epithet "Old" is needed in the names of these two historic communities often bewilders the passerby, until he is told that north of Old Lyme is a newer town called plain "Lyme", and north of Old Saybrook there is another town called "Saybrook", the name of which was officially changed to Deep River in 1947.

Until the end of World War II both of these towns were elm-shaded villages with a long seafaring tradition. Descendents of sea captains or merchants, who had thrived on the profits of trade, lived peacefully in dignified old dwellings. To a large extent Old Lyme remains typical of the older New England town although its traditional character is leavened by the presence of a large number of artists and writers and a good number of summer residents.

Old Saybrook, on the other hand, is one of the fastest growing towns in the state partly because it lies on the Connecticut Turnpike, completed in 1957, and partly because Old Saybrook even in the days of the disintegration of the New Haven Railroad, remains the only significant railroad stop between New London and New Haven.

The main block for this house came from near Albany via the Hudson River and Long Island Sound.

In recent years the lower Connecticut valley has seen something of a boom, and Old Saybrook, its commercial and business center, has attracted new industries and new residents and is now the commercial and business center of the lower Connecticut Valley. The post-war boating enthusiasm has brought new summer activity to Old Saybrook, centered around boatyards and large marinas with attendant motor cruisers, deep-sea fishing, motels, supply stores, after-deck cocktail parties, and transistor radios.

Saybrook, named after Lord Saye and Sele and Lord Brook, two of the noblemen who had sponsored the Colony, was founded by Lion Gardner in 1635 and originally encompassed the entire mouth of the river. When the Civil War opened in 1640, the Puritan gentry for whom the colony had been planned as a refuge remained in England to do battle for Parliament. As a result in 1644 the then-Governor George Fenwick united Saybrook with the Connecticut Colony, as the Hartford Wethersfield community was called.

Through Essex came the ivory which has made Deep River and Ivoryton world famous.
Below Left: The Osage Inn and right, the veranda of the Griswold Inn.

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Below Left: The Osage Inn and right, the veranda of the Griswold Inn.

Left: Fromthe deck of the Essex Yacht Club.

Below: Essex ship building reached its zenith in the 1840's and many fine homes still stand in silent tribute to the sea captains who sailed over the globe but who considered Essex as their home.

Lion Gardner (1599-1663) had been an English officer and a fortification expert in the war in the Low Countries. In 1635 he was commissioned to build a fort and lay out a town at the mouth of the Connecticut. A year later his young wife gave birth to David Gardner, the first white child born in Connecticut.

Below: Terra Mar Marina, a paradise for motor cruisers, is probably the most luxurious marina north of Florida with hotel, bar, coffee shop, swimming pools, dancing, tennis and shuffleboard.

Congregational Church, Old Saybrook.

George Dickinson House, 1790, Old Saybrook.

Connecticut Charter. At the meeting of the Assembly the Charter was laid upon the table, but the lights suddenly went out and the Charter disappeared and, according to the Connecticut tradition, was hidden in the trunk of the great oak tree which was thereafter to be known as the Charter Oak.

Life in the Connecticut towns settled down after the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 removed the Stuarts from the throne, and attention was given to the founding of a college. The result was the establishment of Yale in Saybrook in 1701. The College remained in Saybrook for 15 years until it was moved to New Haven which, being larger, offered better facilities.

Saybrook saw no military action in the Revolutionary War, but the lower Connecticut Valley made substantial contributions. The *Oliver Cromwell*, with 24 guns, built in Essex in June, 1776, was among the larger American ships which saw service. Essex and Saybrook each had a number of privateers. In 1785, David Bushnell of Saybrook, born in what is now Westbrook, invented a submarine which worked well in trials in the Con-

Private residence, formerly the Black Horse Tavern, Old Saybrook.

necticut River but ended up as a complete failure in an attack against the British Fleet in New York Harbor.

In Saybrook, as in the rest of New England, the War of 1812 had little or no public support. Taking advantage of the failure of the Americans to establish any defenses at Saybrook Point, the British in 1814 staged a raid against Essex where they destroyed some twenty-two vessels and inflicted considerable property damage, all graphically depicted on the walls of the Griswold Inn in Essex.

Because of its proximity to the ocean and its comparatively small industrial development, eastern Connecticut has been particularly attractive to summer visitors. To the east of Old Lyme is Niantic, a popular fishing center with its attendant marinas supplying boats to rent and countless eating places offering almost every variety of seafood, including the scallops of Niantic Bay, widely famed for their delicacy. To the west of Saybrook are Westbrook and Clinton, whose traditional small-town charms have, in the summer at least, been largely engulfed by a summer resort atmosphere.

Above: The Florence Griswold House (1817), now the home of the Lyme Historical Society, was designed in Greek Revival style by Samuel Belcher who also designed the Old Lyme Congregational Church. In the early years of this century, Florence Griswold made a special point of welcoming American artists there and turned it into something of a summer art colony.

The Stanton House, 1790, in Clinton.

Madison, settled in the 1660's as part of Guilford, became a separate town in 1826. Despite the New England antipathy to the War of 1812, it was named after President Madison.

One of the most distinguished early families of Madison was the Scranton family, the descendants of which eventually founded Scranton, Pennsylvania. Like children in many early New England families, the Scranton boys received sturdy biblical names which today would be difficult even to pronounce, much less to recognize. Whether the young ladies fared better is a matter of opinion: Charity, Content, Freelove, Joy, Mercy, Mindwell, Submit, Thankful or Wealthy.

A prominent Madisonian was Cornelius Scranton Bushnell, a descendant of Bushnell of Saybrook who had pioneered the submarine in the Revolutionary War. Cornelius is remembered as the sponsor of the *Monitor* of Civil War fame, designed by the great John Ericson, but brought into being only through Bushnell's tenacity and financial support. After the battle with the *Merrimac* in which the *Monitor* practically saved Washington, Bushnell received the following telegram from President Lincoln: "The *Monitor* has beaten the *Merrimac*. We will pay for your vessel. Build us six more like her."

Top left, Marshes, Madison.

Top center: Covering over 1,000 acres, Hammonasset State Park has a fine sandy beach and sites for picnics and camping.

The present Madison Congregational Church was dedicated in 1838, but the Church Society dates back to 1707. The church was built by community effort: the black walnut pulpit was paid for by the Sabbath School; the communion table was purchased by the Children's Sewing Society; the Young Ladies Sewing Circle contributed the carpet and furniture; and one of the largest gifts, $1,000, came from the Ladies Missionary Society.

Probably the oldest stone house in English-settled America, Guilford's Whitfield House (right with bedroom above) was built in 1639. The 1734 Griswold House (below) was occupied continuously by the same family until 1958 when it became the Guilford Keeping Society museum.

It was from Sachem's Head that the Americans launched one of the most exciting raids of the Revolutionary War. In 1777, Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs crossed the Sound to Southold with 170 men in whaleboats, carried the boats across the Island for 15 miles, then crossed the Bay and attacked Sag Harbor where a British squadron was anchored. After burning 12 brigs and sloops, their supplies, killing twelve of the enemy and capturing ninety, they returned to Connecticut within twenty-four hours without losing a man.

Branford Trolley Museum.

The Thimble Islands are among the innumerable places where Captain Kidd is said to have buried treasures.

New Haven County

For over two hundred years New Haven was a co-capital of the state with Hartford, and for many years it was far larger and wealthier than the latter. From its founding in 1638 until 1666 New Haven was an independent colony and, like the Greek cities of old, established its own colonies: Guilford and Branford in 1639; Milford in 1639; and even Stamford and Southold across the Sound in 1640. United in a loose confederation, the mother town and all the little ones were sternly ruled by Puritan divines who led their flocks in the worship of a God with no love, little justice, and much wrath and vengeance. New Haven in its early years was considered, erroneously or not, to have the bluest of the "blue laws" in New England. Worship and work were the hallmarks of the Colony, and it soon attained a high degree of prosperity.

Before the ravages of industrial life New Haven was considered one of the most beautiful towns in the country. It certainly was the first which was actually planned for. In 1639 the town plot was laid out in nine squares with the central one being reserved as the village green. Later known as the

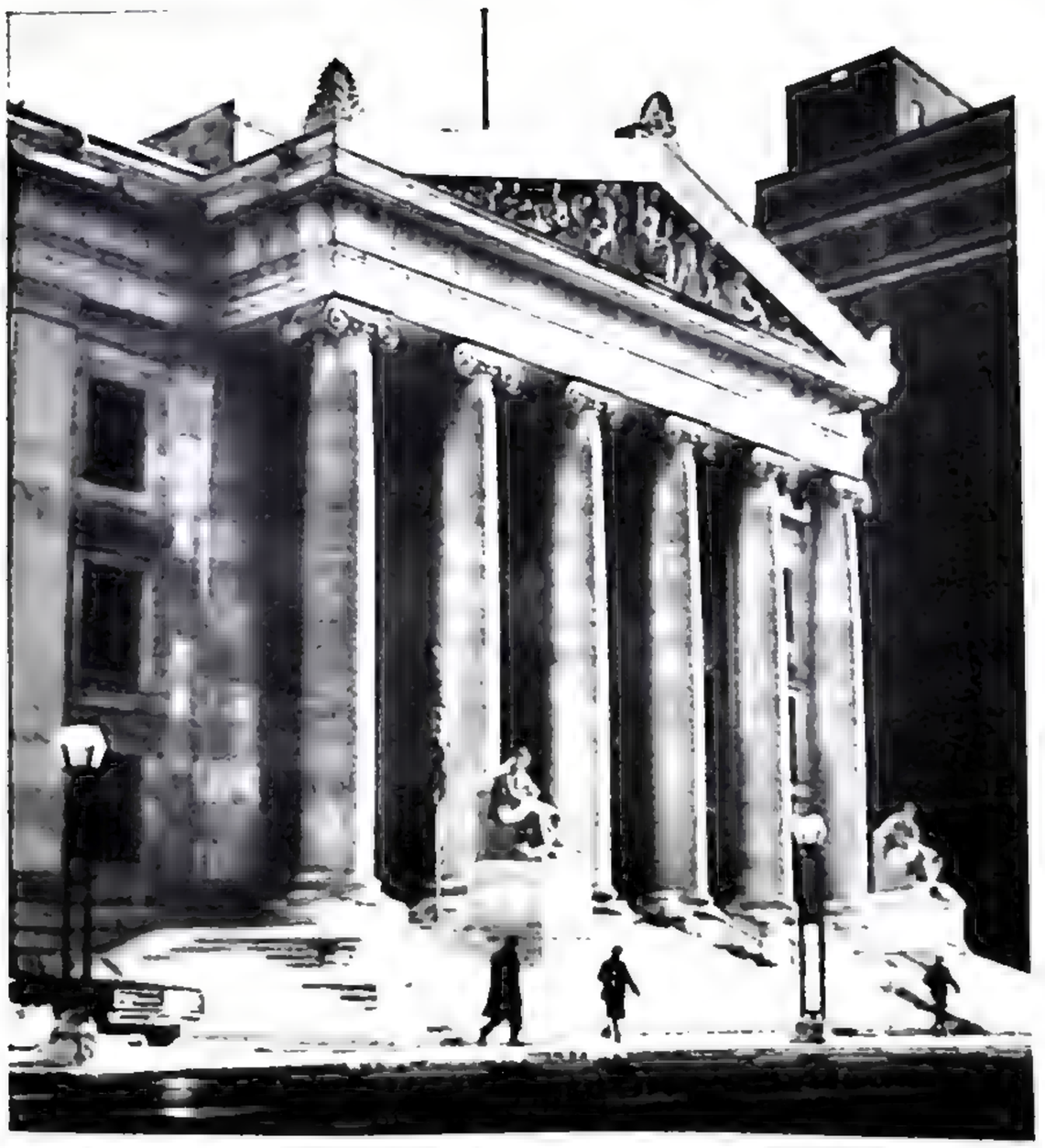
Left: Center Church on the Green and right, New Haven looking from East Haven.

Top left: The New Haven Green in winter.

Bottom left: Pedestrians await the walk light at Chapel Street.

Top right: The Promenade of the Green.

Bottom right: The New Haven County Court House, modeled after St. George's Hall in Liverpool, England and to its right is the New Haven Public Library.



Above: Yale's Sterling Library and right, Berkeley College, from Yale Law School.

New Haven Green, it is perhaps the best known of all the New England greens. Speaking of New Haven, the *American Gazetteer* of 1810 tells us of "its handsome and commodious buildings, its public square encircled with rows of trees, which render it both convenient and delightful," a "prospect from the steeples. . greatly variegated and extremely beautiful." The *Gazetteer* concludes "indeed, as to pleasantness of situation and salubrity of air, New Haven is hardly exceeded by any city in American." New Haven's preeminence as a cultural center dates back to 1716 when Yale College was moved to the city, and the influence of Yale does indeed permeate the area, physically, socially and culturally. The University museums are known world-wide; the great libraries are outstanding in almost every field of learning; its faculty members have been drawn from all parts of the world. Yale is, of course, a story in itself quite beyond that of the Connecticut Shore line. It is vividly told by Reuben A. Holden, the Secretary of the University in his fascinating *Yale: a pictorial history*,

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Yale also has a great painting collection initiated in 1831 when John Trumbull, then 75, gave Yale his collection of Revolutionary War paintings along with works of the Federal era in consideration of a one thousand dollar annuity. Trumbull received a good measure of value for he lived until his 87th year.

Above: The striking Beinecke Library and right, the familiar Harkness Tower at Yale.

published by the Yale University Press in 1967. Apart from the University, New Haven is known for its symphony, it choral groups, and its Shubert Theatre, one of the principal tryout houses for plays destined for Broadway.

In the first half of the 20th Century the "Elm City" as it was called, in common with most other American cities, came upon bad days. The well-to-do moved out. Neighborhoods deteriorated, slums developed and blight set in. By the middle of the century New Haven was considered a dead city with little distinction other than as the

Yale's Ezra Stiles College.

home of Yale University. However, in 1954, new blood came upon the scene in the person of Mayor Richard C. Lee, who embarked upon a program of urban renewal which has given the city renewed vitality. The downtown section has been transformed, industrial parks have been established, residential areas have been improved and new industry has been attracted.

New Haven's contributions to American history have been as numerous as they have been varied. In 1661, Edward Whalley and his son-in-law,

The Firehouse, New Haven.

Temple Street parking garage.

New Haven urban renewal.

William Goffe, who were among the "Regicides" who had signed the death warrant of Charles I, fled to New England and came to New Haven where, for some weeks, they were concealed in a cave in what is now West Rock Nature Center overlooking the City from the north. More than a hundred years later New Haven's devotion to freedom took the form of a boycott of foreign products taxed by the unpopular British Revenue Act of 1764. *The New York Gazette* reported that "The young Gentlemen of Yale College have unanimously agreed not to make use of any foreign spirituous Liquors. . . The Gentlemen of the College cannot be too much commended for setting so laudable an example. This will not only greatly diminish the Expense of Education, but prove, as may be presumed, very favourable to the Health and Improvement of the Students. At the same time all Gentlemen of Taste who visit the College, will think themselves better entertained with a good Glass of Beer or Cider, offered them on such Principles, than they could be, with the best Punch or Madeira."

In the Revolution, as in all other American wars, Connecticut was an important supplier of weapons and munitions. Like many other Connecticut shore towns, New Haven was raided by the British. General William Tryon, the Royal Governor of New York, landed on July 4, 1779. After meeting considerable local resistance the British set fire to buildings and military stores and then withdrew to attack Fairfield. Among the Yankee snipers was the septuagenarian retired President of Yale, Napthali Daggett, who was captured by the British but released without his shoes for a five mile march back to New Haven.

New Haven's most important contribution in weaponry was the famous Winchester repeating rifle which was one of the major factors in the winning of the West. Weapons of every variety can be seen in the Gun Museum.

New Haven was also the home of Eli Whitney who after inventing the cotton gin, turned in 1798 to manufacturing small arms with interchangable parts on a mass-production basis. Scholars, writers and school boys will remember it as the home of Noah Webster, author of their ever-present dictionary.

Two views of Lighthouse Point Park, East Haven, a favorite place for individual and group picnics. Following pages: Fishing off New Haven.

The American Shakespeare Festival Theatre is modeled after the Globe Theatre in London. Patrons frequently picnic on the lawn before performances.

The Judson House, now the home of the Stratford Historical Society, dates from 1723.

Eastern Fairfield County

THE BOUNDARIES of the New Haven Colony were along the Housatonic River, and the towns settled west of the River owed their origin, not to the Puritan divines of the New Haven Colony, but rather to men of arms who, having seen the good Indian lands, appreciated their ultimate potential. Stratford was settled in 1638 by Roger Ludlow who bought some land after he returned from the war against the Pequots. Fairfield followed a year later and Norwalk was settled in 1651. Life in the early days in these towns was a little less strict than across the Housatonic in Milford where a husband was forbidden to kiss his wife in public. For having violated this proscription, one Birdseye, who was about to be publicly punished, swam the river to Stratford to be followed a day later by his aquatic wife.

Stratford, Fairfield and Norwalk during the 18th century were typical small-town ports living by the coastal trade and the attendant ship-building activities. Fairfield attained the dubious distinction of being the last Connecticut town involved in the witch hunts of the 17th century.

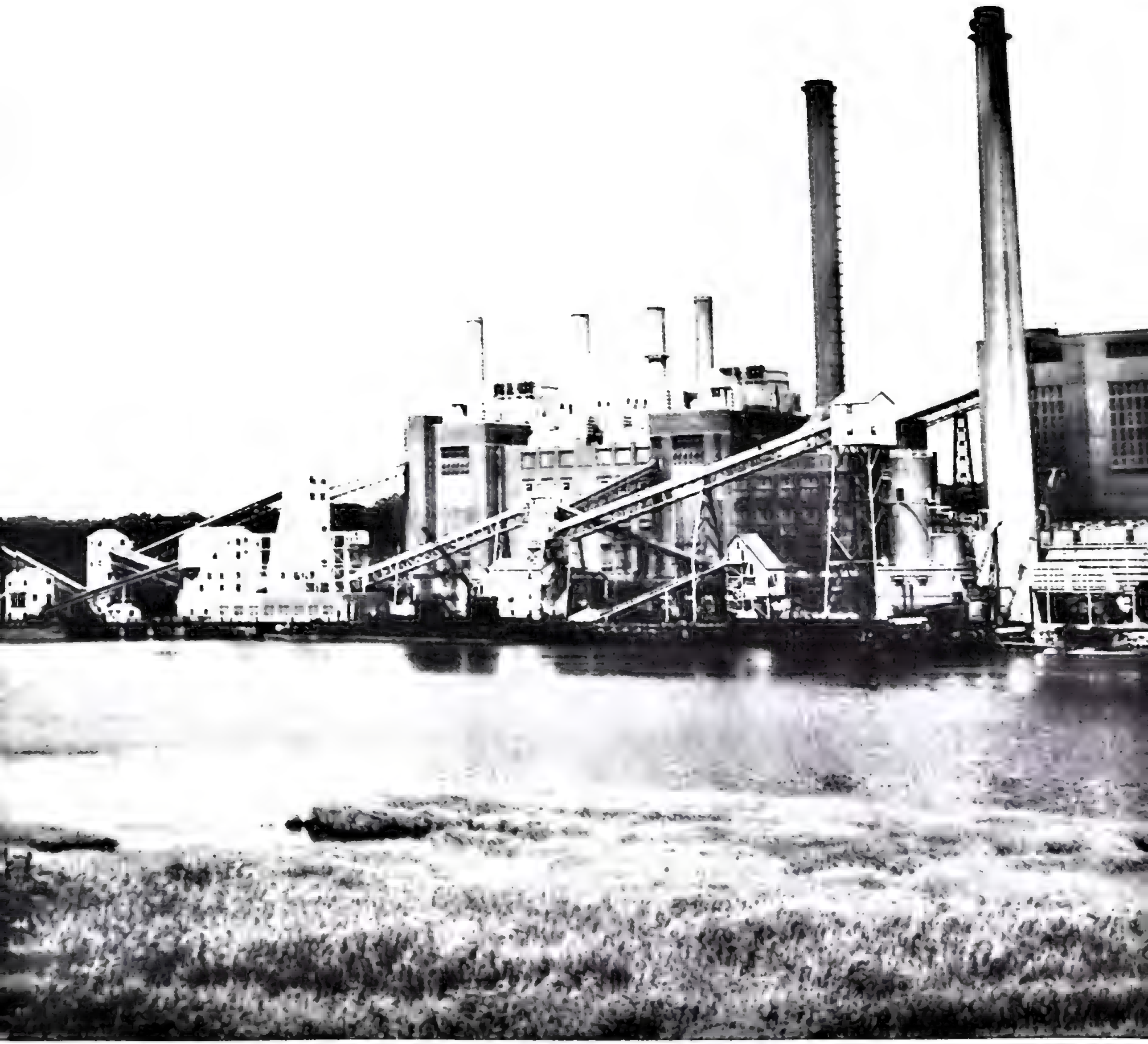
The mouth of the Housatonic at Stratford.

In Colonal times both sides of the Sound harbored whaling companies of from twelve to thirty men, each owning its own boat and whaling gear. By the time of the Revolution whaling in the Sound had almost died out, but the company organizations remained and were brought into service by the loyalists on the New York side and by the patriots on the Connecticut shores.

Stratford, Fairfield and Norwalk all prospered in the 18th century and at the end of the Colonial era they were listed among the twelve largest towns in Connecticut. In the towns themselves were the homes of wealthy merchants and the surrounding countryside contained rich pasture lands and grist mills along the many streams flowing into the Sound. The harbor was at Southport where the old wharves and shops are still to be seen.

North of Southport, is Greenfield Hill, one of the most attractive Connecticut villages with its well-shaded common, its venerable church, and the old Academy, established in 1786 by the great Timothy Dwight (1752- 1817), later President of Yale. Attended not only by boys, but also by a number of young ladies, the Academy was probably America's first co-educational venture.

In the 19th century small manufacturing establishments appeared in the towns, but the countryside remained rural. One of the principal crops was the onion, which was exported through Southport. In the words



Connecticut Light and Power Co. on the Housatonic at Stratford.

By the end of the 19th century Connecticut had a magnificent rail network, all of which was eventually absorbed by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Trackage reached 2,298 miles by 1922, but soon thereafter road completion brought about the decline of the railroad. Right: United Congregational Church, Bridgeport.

The railroad station at Bridgeport stands as a reminder of the past. Traffic today is just a fraction of what it was a few short years ago.

of one of the chroniclers at the close of the century, "Nothing seems to grow but onions between Greenfield Hill and the sea. We pass many fields of five to ten acres each, and hear of growers who raise all the way from ten to twenty-five acres of the pungent bulbs."

Westport was attacked by the British in April, 1777, when General William Tyron staged his raid on Danbury. Compo Beach in Westport (or Green Farms as it was then called) was the site of his landing. A few days later he reached Danbury, destroyed stores and burned buildings, and then withdrew under fire from the Continentals. Benedict Arnold showed particular bravery and earned distinction in the engagement. A little more than two years later, after his attack on New Haven, Tyron sent his forces into Fairfield, Westport and Norwalk where he burned many houses, stores, public buildings and some churches. Apparently most of the troops executing the fire orders were Hessians.

Bridgeport, the third largest city in Connecticut, is considerably newer as a separate entity than its adjoining towns, which antedate it by

Barnum Institute of Science and History, Bridgeport.

Tom Thumb statue, Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport.

some one hundred and fifty years. Although it has a few surviving colonial structures, Bridgeport did not develop until the industrial boom of the early 19th century when, because of its large public parks, it became known as the "Park City."

Today Bridgeport is esentially a factory town. For its size - 160,000 population - Bridgeport is a highly important industrial center, being noted particularly for hardware, brass, machine tools, electronics, small arms, aircraft components, telephone equipment, and the sewing machine.

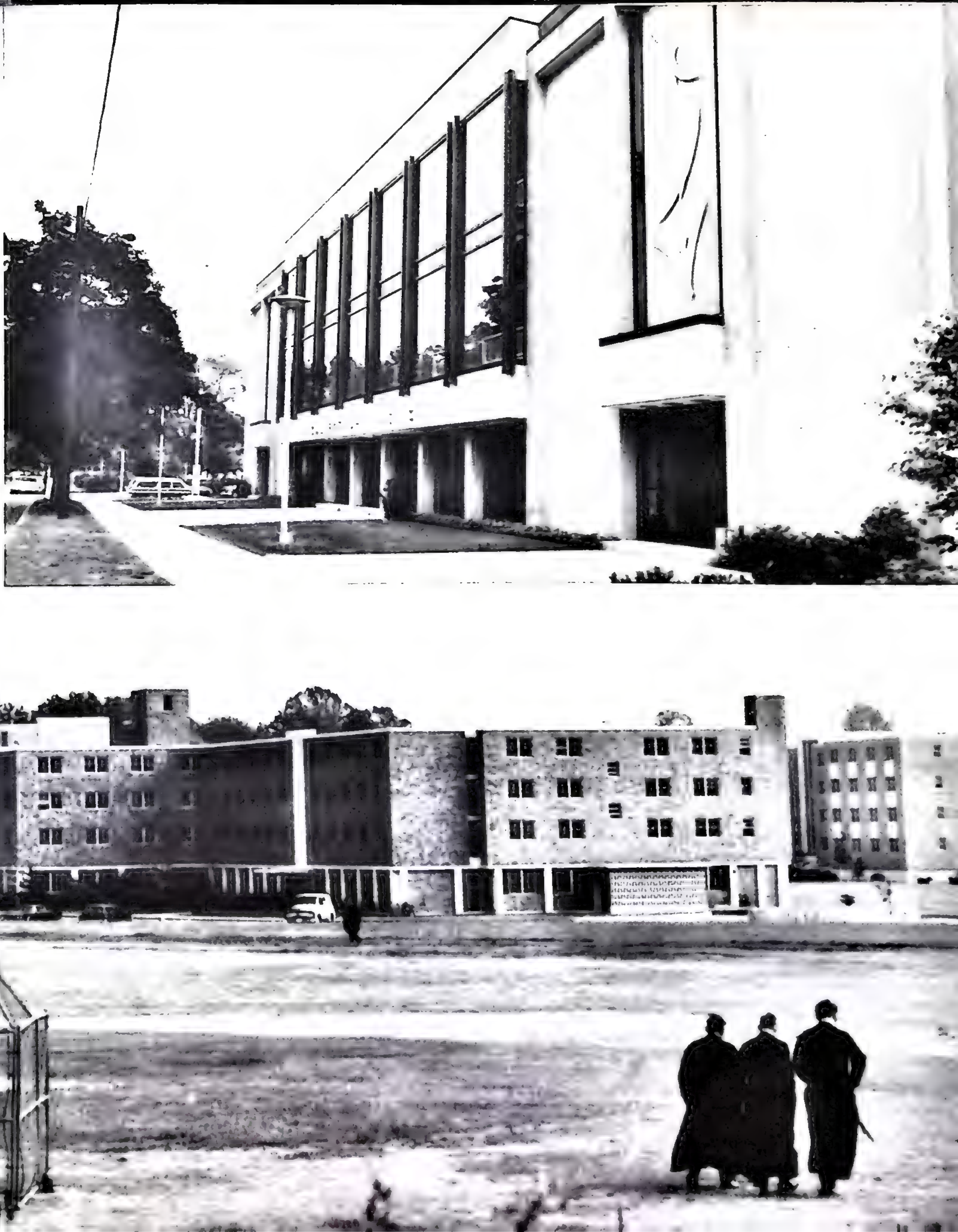
In earlier days, mention of Bridgeport brought to mind Phineas T. Barnum who in 1835 founded in Bridgeport the circus which eventually became known as the "Greatest Show on Earth!" Barnum became Mayor of the city and was a generous benefactor to his adopted home town. His career and memory have been honored in the P. T. Barnum Institute of Science and History which he founded in 1891 as a museum. It has recently been rejuvenated and restored and is a center of memorabilia of circus lore and Bridgeport history.

City Square, Bridgeport.

Right: Lafayette Hall at the University of Bridgeport. Below: Fairfield University Campus Center.

Next Page

Top: College of Nursing at the University of Bridgeport has over 7000 students. Bottom: The grounds at Fairfield Universitu.



The Burr Mansion in Fairfield was built in 1790 to replace an earlier house burned by the British. Thaddeus Burr was a cousin.

Snake brick wall at Southport.

In the nineteen thirties, Bridgeport was best known for its dynamic Socialist Mayor, Jasper McLevy, who, being perennially reelected to his office, gave Bridgeport one of the most efficient municipal governments in the country.

Like all-too-many other American towns, Bridgeport became a victim of urban decay, marked by a drab physical appearance with smoke and soot belching forth from its seemingly innumerable factories. In recent years, however, various renewal projects have been undertaken, the principal one of which is centered around Lafayette Plaza. Unfortunately, renewal plans often fail to take into account the preservation of what is good in the old, and the bulldozer is given free rein. Of this Bridgeport provided one of the most pitiful illustrations when, in the late nineteen fifties the Harral-Wheeler mansion, then considered as the best-preserved and most notable example of the Gothic revival era, was wantonly destroyed to make way for a new city hall - notwithstanding that, under the very terms of the Wheeler will, it had been left to the city as a library and a museum.

A montage of Southport showing typical scenery of this picturesque seashore town.

Left: The Westport Congregational Church, 1830.
Top right: Main Street, Westport.
Bottom right: Modern suburban office building, Westport.

Left: The Westport Congregational Church.

Above: Main Street, Westport.

Right: New architecture is displayed by this imaginative office building in Westport.

British Troops returning from a raid on Danbury in April, 1777 encountered the Minute Men at Compo. The Minute Man monument now stands at about where the engagement took place. The Statue is set up in the Compo Beach area.

Saugatuck was so named by the Indians for the beautiful and winding river. The town kept this name until the railroad came there in 1835 at which time the name was changed to Westport. The Saugatuck Congregational Church still has the original name and there is a Saugutuck Post Office at the R.R. station.

Gerald Putnam Inn, Norwalk

The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion was built for a prominent railroad executive.

Ex-urbia and Suburbia

THE SHORE line between Norwalk and the New York border is considerably more varied and exciting than that immediately to the east of the Saugatuck River. Off Norwalk are a group of islands whose barren state belies their proximity to the outer limits of the New York metropolitan area.

The lands abutting the shore are also pleasantly varied with numerous coves, harbors and streams flowing into the Sound, along which are interspersed beaches, rocks and cliffs. It was the view from a hill in Greenwich, presently the site of the Second Congregational Church, which in 1789 occasioned George Washington to comment in his diary on the "superb landscape which is to be seen from the meeting house".

Stamford and Greenwich were settled in 1640 by two soldiers who had previously been engaged in Indian fighting in the area, Robert Freakes and Daniel Patrick. Although their claims were in part derived from the New Haven Colony and in part from money and goods paid to the Indians,

Left: Ducks enjoy the calm of a late fall day in Rowayton. The United Church can be seen in the background. The Church (pictured below) was completed in 1963, with Joseph Salerno of Westport as architect, received a top honor award from the American Institute of Architects.

Following pages: Winter storage at Rowayton.

Downtown Stamford. One of its leading citizens was Abraham Davenport, who immortalized himself by opposing adjournment of the Connecticut House of Representatives when on May 19, 1780, the sky became so dark that the members feared that Judgment Day was about to come. Said Davenport to his colleagues: "I am against adjournment. The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment; if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish, therefore, that candles may be brought."

The city spreads to the suburbs. Stamford.

they soon realized that they could get more help from Nieuw Amsterdam than from their English colleagues so that they changed their allegiance and became Dutch Patroons. The result of all this was that after the Dutch lost New York, the New York province claimed Greenwich. New Haven Colony, on the other hand, claimed everything as far west as Rye and even Bedford to the north. The border dispute was eventually settled in 1668 when Connecticut gave up its claims in Long Island and to Fisher's Island and Rye, but retained the Greenwich area.

The physical attributes of the area and its proximity to the big city have made it a natural site for the high-bracket bedroom community into which it has inevitably developed over the past twenty-five years. Until the 1930's, except for very large estates owned by some New Yorkers, there were comparatively few commuter homes in the Greenwich area. Greenwich was a town for the very rich, and much of the local population was supported by

Swan Lake, Stamford.

First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, designed by Wallace K. Harrison.

The Stamford Museum and Nature Center has something of interest to everyone.

Above: Cove Island Beach Park.

Center: Along the shore at Shippan Point.

Right: Stamford Harbor.

work from the estates. Stamford on the other hand was an independent community, while Darien and Rowayton were more summer communities than bedroom towns. The great opening-up came with the movement out of the near suburbs in Westchester, which were already becoming congested, into the wider spaces of Connecticut, a movement accentuated by the completion in 1938 of the Merritt Parkway. In the post-World-War II era the migration to ex-urbia began in earnest, spurred on in part by the

Below: The waterfront at Cos Cob in Old Greenwich is a favorite visiting spot for many mariners.

Right: Spring at Binney Park in Old Greenwich.

opening of the Connecticut Turnpike in 1956 so that today western Fairfield County is one large bedroom town for the megalopolis by which it is surrounded.

Homes in southern Fairfield County range from the great estates of the established gentry to the modern development houses recently built for the young junior executive and his family. In between there are homes which line tree-shaded streets of an older era, modern apartments, luxurious and otherwise, hardly distinguishable from those in the big city itself, and, finally, a small amount of old housing for the relatively few underprivileged.

High social life in these parts centers largely around the many clubs which abound in all communities: beach clubs, yacht clubs, hunt clubs, tennis clubs or garden clubs. Those who do not, cannot, or will not make the club grade must be content with the town beaches, the public marinas, or the many excellent public parks. Non-resident outsiders seldom get near the water for the town beaches

Above: The Convent of the Sacred Heart at Noroton occupies the grounds and estate of the late Anson Stokes.

Left: The Bush-Holley House at Cos Cob, now owned by the Greenwich Historical Society, was built about 1685. Its restoration has brought to light Jacobean fireplaces and early wallpaper bearing the tax stamp of George II. In the latter part of the 19th century as the Holley Inn, it became a favorite spot for artists and sculptors, including Childe Hassam, Walt Kuhn, J. Alden Weir, William Jacksons, George Tulso, Arthur B. Davies, Jo Davidson, Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The Bruce Museum is devoted to all phases of natural history. It has 20,000 exhibits as well as live animals.

Below: Greenwich abounds in country estates with lovely trees flanked by well-maintained stone walls.

Left: Along Putnam Avenue in Greenwich.

Top right: A Spring morning at Bruce Park.

Bottom right: Small shops line Putnam Avenue.

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are well restricted to prevent any mass encroachment from the big city.

Industrial and commercial research is one of Connecticut's principal industries, and Stamford has been called "The Research City". Stamford laboratories produce drugs and electronic and optical equipment. Stamford is also the home of the Pitney-Bowes postage meter and the Yale lock. Like other Connecticut cities, Stamford has embarked on a program of urban renewal to revamp its downtown area.

In early times, the Town of Greenwich had two principal sections: Horseneck, the area west of the Mianus River; and Sound Beach, now Old Greenwich, on the eastern side. Greenwich was a favorite hunting ground of the Indians, and the intrusion of the white man brought about a bloody battle in 1644 which ended with the complete rout of the Indians.

Today, Greenwich remains an enclave in the expanding urban sprawl that has engulfed so much of the territory. Its water view, its charming countryside and its proximity to New York have all combined to make it one of American's choicest residential towns.

Top left: Christ Episcopal Church, Greenwich.

Above: Spring buds provide shade along Millbank Avenue in Greenwich.

Right: Putnam Cottage (1731), now Headquarters of the Putnam Hill Chapter of the D.A.R., at the time called Knapp's Tavern, was the stage for one of Connecticut's best-known Revolutionary War encounters.

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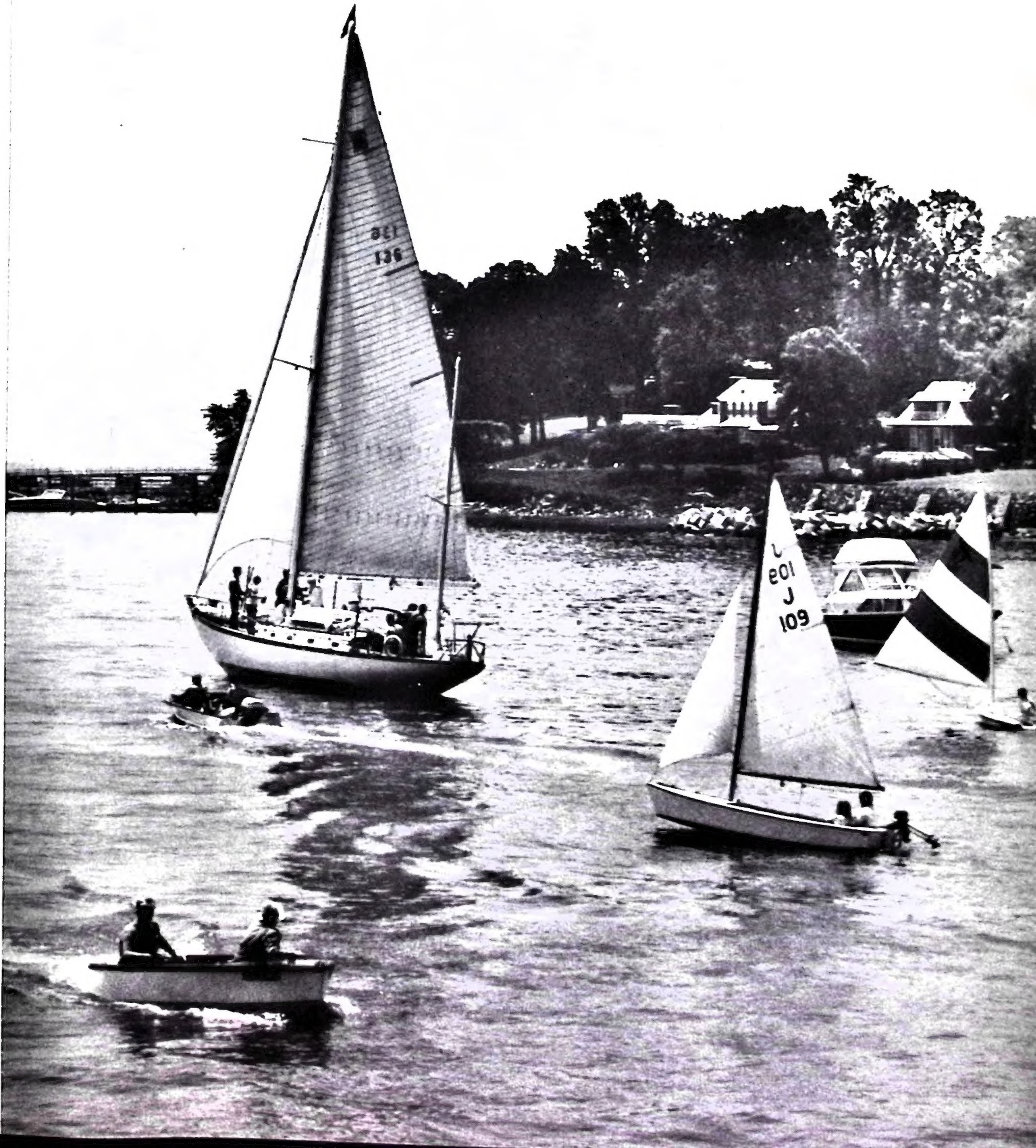
Right: A variety of sailing craft is visible in the harbor at Greenwich during the season.

Left: The veranda of the Indian Harbor Yacht Club.

Below: The boat to Great Captain's Island, Greenwich.

Following pages: Dusk at Indian Harbor.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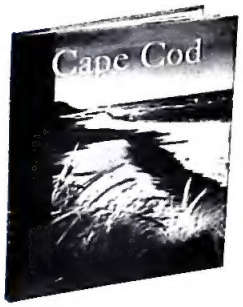

Cape Cod Journey

by Katharine Knowles

A photographic impression of unique Cape Cod by the photographer of *Boston: Portrait of a City* and *Cambridge*, Miss Knowles' journey with a camera starts at Cape Cod Canal, follows the Massachusetts Bay shore to Provincetown and returns along the outer towns and beaches. Her sensitive eye confirms all that is beautiful on the Cape Cod scene.

125 photographs, 96 pages $5.95

Portrait of Essex

photographs by Joseph Farber
text by Marie Moore
introduction by Carl Feiss

Photographer and author have together created this graceful and moving portrait of Essex, Connecticut. The town, settled in the mid-17th century, was an offshoot of Saybrook, five miles distant, and was known as Old Saybrook until 1854. In the mid-18th century, in the three coves on the Connecticut River not far from the sea, a thriving ship-building industry grew which reached its height around 1840 and thereafter steadily declined. In Essex was built in 1775 the *Oliver Cromwell*, the first ship of the young colonial navy to put to sea. During the War of 1812 the British raided the shipyards and burned 22 craft. When the heyday of ship-building had passed, Essex settled into quiet village life, broken only by visitors from outside who came to hunt, fish, and sail, and more recently by artists and writers who find the town's quiet charm congenial.

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